

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116****EXPEDITED PROCEDURE****EXAMINING GROUP 2666****PATENT****Application # 09/703,699****Attorney Docket # 2000-0020 (1014-068)****AMENDMENTS****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected ~~IP data switching systems routers~~, a method comprised of:
  - receiving at a first ~~IP data switching system router~~ a plurality of IP data packets, the first router directly interconnected by a first plurality of data paths to a first sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers;
  - tabulating at said first ~~IP data switching system router~~ a count of at least the ~~number of~~ IP data packets received from a ~~any~~ particular IP source ~~address~~ during a first time interval, ~~thereby forming a count of IP data packets from a particular source;~~
  - storing said count of IP data packets in a memory device for subsequent processing;
  - determining that a time-based data traffic measure from said particular IP source exceeds a predetermined threshold; and
  - responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second ~~IP data switching system router~~, said message adapted to instruct said second ~~IP data switching system router~~ to discard packets from said particular IP source, wherein said second ~~IP data switching system router~~ is not a source ~~system router~~ for said packets, the second router directly interconnected by a second plurality of data paths to a second sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

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reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device; and  
selectively discarding IP data packets received at said first ~~IP data switching system router~~ that originated from said particular source.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~first IP data switching system router~~ is an IP data router switching system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of selectively discarding IP data packets includes the step of denying reception of IP data packets from a router based upon a source address in IP data packets upon the determination that the count of IP data packets from a source address exceeds a threshold value.

5. (Currently Amended) In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected ~~IP data switching systems routers~~, a method comprised of:

receiving a plurality of IP data packets at a first ~~IP data switching system router~~,  
the first router directly interconnected by a first plurality of data paths to a first sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers;

tabulating at said first ~~IP data switching system router~~ a count of at least the number of IP data packets routable to a particular IP destination address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets routable to a particular IP destination address;

storing said count of IP data packets, said count routable to a particular IP destination address in a memory device for subsequent processing;

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determining that a time-based data traffic measure for packets routable to the particular IP destination exceeds a predetermined threshold; and

responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second ~~IP data switching system router~~, said message adapted to instruct said second ~~IP data switching system router~~ to discard packets routable to said particular IP destination, wherein said second ~~IP data switching system router~~ is not a source system for said packets, the second router directly interconnected by a second plurality of data paths to a second sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:  
reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device;

selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets from said first IP data switching system when the number of IP packets routable to said particular IP destination exceeds a predetermined number.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second ~~IP data switching systems router~~ is an IP data router switching system.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets includes the step of sending a message to a specific router to discard messages either received from or sent to a specific IP address, the specific router not a source for said messages.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in an Internet Protocol (IP) data network that comprises a plurality of interconnected ~~IP data switching systems routers~~ at a first ~~IP data switching system router~~, determining that a time-based data traffic measure from ~~the any~~ particular IP source exceeds a predetermined threshold, the first router directly interconnected by a first plurality of data paths to a first sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers; and

responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second ~~IP data switching system router~~, said message adapted to instruct said ~~second IP data switching system router~~ to discard packets from said particular IP source, wherein said second ~~IP data switching system router~~ is not a source ~~system router~~ for said packets, the second router directly interconnected by a second plurality of data paths to a second sub-plurality of interconnected routers from the plurality of interconnected routers.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
overwriting packets in a buffer responsive to said determining step.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
providing said time-based data traffic measure to a user via a user interface.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
sending said message to a sub-plurality of ~~IP data switching systems routers~~.

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13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
ignoring incoming packets from said particular IP source.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
determining said predetermined threshold.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
automatically polling a memory for information indicative of said time-based data  
traffic measure.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
overwriting packets in a buffer responsive to said determining step.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
providing said data traffic ~~rate-measure~~ to a user via a user interface.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
sending said message to a sub-plurality of ~~IP data-switching systems~~ routers.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
ignoring incoming packets to said particular IP destination.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

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determining said predetermined threshold.